

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending. All claims 1-26 are believed to be allowable over the references cited by the Examiner as discussed below. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance for the present application is respectfully requested.

Objections

Claims 1, 7, 9-12, 17-20, and 24-26 were objected to. These claims are amended to clarify the subject matter of the invention. Withdrawal of the claim objections is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1, 2, 4-13, and 15-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fujisaki.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites a headset system that generally includes a headset having a headset microphone, a speech recognition engine that interprets audio signals when activated and interprets audio signals representing at least one of digits, letters, and numbers, and an in-band DTMF tone generator that generates in-band DTMF tones representing the interpreted at least one of digits, letters, and numbers, *the tone generator directly transmits the generated tones to simulate dialing.*

Independent claim 12, as amended, recites a method for navigating through a DTMF controlled system that generally includes activating a speech recognition engine, interpreting speech received via a microphone from a user by the speech recognition engine, the speech recognition engine-interprets the speech representing at least one of digits, letters, and numbers, and generating and transmitting in-band DTMF tones representing the interpreted speech by an in-band DTMF tone generator in communication with the speech recognition engine, *the tone generator directly transmits the generated tones to simulate dialing.*

Independent claim 20, as amended, recites a method that generally includes connecting to a DTMF-controlled system, in which navigation through the DTMF-controlled system is via transmission of DTMF tones thereto, interpreting speech by a speech recognition engine, and generating and transmitting in-band DTMF tone to the DTMF-controlled system, the in-band DTMF tones being a translation of the interpreted speech selected from at least one of digits,

letters, and numbers, *the tone generator directly transmits the generated tones to simulate dialing.*

In contrast, Fujisaki discloses a dialer that a user controls using speech and the system retrieves the desired number to be dialed from one of its memories. Rather than generating tones for direct transmission to simulate dialing, Fujisaki's tone generator 4 is provided merely to facilitate the storing of the telephone numbers into memory.

For example, Fujisaki states "It is a further object of the invention to provide a voice controlled automatic dialer which allows users to verify their input utterances in the form of synthesized speech or a multifrequency tone." (Col. 1, lines 40-42). "The output of the tone generator 4, whether multiple frequencies or single frequency, is in the form of a burst of duration *sufficient to permit the user to identify each input utterance. The duration of 100 millisecond is found to be appropriate for this purpose.*" (Col. 3, lines 39-43). "The outputs of the tone generator 4 and speech synthesizer 5 are selectively coupled through a switch 6 to the receiver 11 *to allow the user to confirm that his or her utterances are correctly interpreted* by the speech recognizer 2." (Col. 3, lines 48-52). "If a command word is entered subsequently, decision circuit 26 applies a control signal to switch 6 to supply the output of speech synthesizer 5 in place of the output of tone generator 4 to the receiver 11 to give a synthesized sound of the input command word *for confirmation of the command words by the user.*" (Col. 3, lines 60-66)

As is evident, the tones generated by Fujisaki's tone generator is merely for the purpose of allowing the user to verify correct interpretation of the input, not for direct transmission to the dialing circuit 7 to simulate dialing.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 12, and 20 as well as claims dependent therefrom under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 3 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Fujisaki in view of Borcharding.

However, claims 3 and 14 are believed to be allowable because independent claims 1 and 12 from which they depend, respectively, are believed to be allowable as discussed above.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 3 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully request a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal letter accompanying this document is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an Extension of Time under 37 CFR 1.136 and/or any other relief is required, Applicant hereby petitions for any required relief including Extensions of Time and/or any other relief and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-2315 (Order No. 01-7131).

Respectfully submitted,



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